

Fully Qualified Teachers of Health and Sex Education: Compliance Issues



February 20, 2007

Michigan law has long required certain qualifications for the teaching of health and sexuality education.

State legislation identifies serious consequences for continuing to employ teachers without the proper credentials. The Department, however, offers assistance to districts attempting to come into compliance.

Available Assistance

The Michigan Department of Education is aware that some teachers without the appropriate endorsement may be currently assigned to teaching health or sexuality education. It is the intention of the Department to provide as much assistance as possible to districts wishing to comply with state legislation regarding teacher certification.

1. **Alternative Preparation/Endorsement Options** – Special options are being developed in collaboration between the Department of Education and certain health education teacher preparation programs at Michigan institutions of higher education. These options will allow certified teachers who have endorsements in other areas to receive credit for some of their health teaching experience, and for in-service training received through the regional School Health Coordinators.

These special options will be available through **June 30, 2010**, for those teachers who:

1. hold a Michigan teacher certification;
2. have taught health education and/or sexuality education classes in the district before January 1, 2007; and
3. have received approved in-service training in health education and/or sexuality education before June 30, 2007.

For more information about these options, contact Merry Stanford, Coordinated School and Safety Programs, via email at StanfordM@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-241-1500.

2. **Full-Year Permits** – The Professional Preparation Services office at the Michigan Department of Education also accepts applications from districts for full-year permits that allow teachers to teach without the required endorsement, while pursuing coursework toward earning the endorsement.

The full year permit is only issued for an assignment that extends for a semester or more. The district will be required to post and advertise the position prior to making an application for the permit. Applications can be renewed for up to three years. For more information, contact Dr. Frank Ciloski,

Office of Professional Preparation Services, via email at CiloskiF@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-373-6791.

Consequences Related to All Endorsements (including Health Education Endorsements)

- Section 388.1763 of the *Revised School Code* states the penalty of deduction from state aid funding for a district that employs a nonapproved, noncertificated teacher . See <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-388-1763.pdf>.
- If you have questions about a state aid penalty, contact Dr. Frank Ciloski, Professional Preparation Services, via email at CiloskiF@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-373-6791.

Questions Related Specifically to Health Education Endorsements

- In the case of sexuality education, Section 380.1507(5) states that “a school district that provides a class as permitted by subsection (1) [sex education] shall offer the instruction by teachers qualified to teach health education.” See <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-380-1507>.
- For questions about health education endorsements, contact Merry Stanford, Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs, via email at StanfordM@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-241-1500.
- For questions about sexuality education content, contact Laurie Bechhofer, Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs, via email at BechhoferL@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-335-7252.